

Hebron Messenger

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HELP FROM ABOVE-2

SEVENFOLD HELP OR BLESSINGS FROM THE LORD (Song Of Salvation).

Today we do not sing Psalm 121 because we do not know the original tune but simply read the words from the Bible. Originally it was written as a song with a beautiful tune. So through this Psalm the Lord reminds us that the first thing He gives us is a song. Christians are known to be singers in every generation. But it is not necessary that we always have a song on our lips. God has given us a song in our hearts. That song is because of our salvation, and hence it can be called the Song of Salvation. So the first blessing that we receive from God, is the Song of Salvation.

The Book of Psalms speaks to us of different kinds of songs. Firstly, Psalm 40:3 speaks to us of a New Song. "And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD". This New Song comes to us as a result of our salvation. Our family members, relatives and other people begin to see the difference in our lives. God brings such a transformation in our lives when we are saved, that it cannot go unnoticed by others. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature" (2 Cor. 5:17). Can you truthfully say that you have a new song in your heart? You do not have to be a composer of songs to have this experience but you must have Christ in your heart as your Saviour and Lord. Many people in the world sing different kinds of songs. Some singers are very popular and people pay a lot of money to listen to their songs. But do you know what the Bible says about such songs? It calls them the songs of fools. "It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools" (Eccl.7:5). Psalm 14:1 says, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God". So make sure that you have a new song in your heart, a song which has come as a result of your salvation.

Secondly, Psalm 137:4 speaks to us of the LORD'S Song. "How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?" People of Israel were taken as captives to Babylon. While they were there, the Babylonians wanted them to sing the songs of Zion for their entertainment. In response the Psalmist asks the question, "How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?" So they referred to their spiritual songs as the Lord's songs. That means they were the songs given by the Lord. Most of them are written in the book of Psalms. Even today the Lord gives us such songs. There are believers who can write beautiful spiritual songs. When a song is composed by the inspiration of the Lord, it will bring spiritual blessing to those who sing and listen to it. Today we sing thousands of songs and hymns in the churches, which were thus given by the Lord. Those who are in the ministry of writing songs must learn the secret of receiving the song from the Lord, Then we can truly say that it is the Lord's song.

There was a hymn writer by the name Fanny Crosby who became blind when she was a child, but the Lord gave her wonderful spiritual insight. Throughout her lifetime, she wrote thousands of hymns, which are very popular in the church even today. In the well-loved hymn, "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine" she speaks of "visions of rapture"

bursting on her "sight", It is a strange thing for a blind lady to speak of visions of rapture bursting on her sight. Though she was physically blind, she had good spiritual sight because of her close walk with the Lord. Through her close association with the Lord she learned to receive songs from Him. Such songs can be called the Lord's songs. Zephaniah 3: 17 says that the Lord Himself sings for joy when He sees His children. "The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with SINGING". Let that song which is in the heart of the Lord come down to us so that we can truly sing the Lord's song. Writing of songs and playing of music is a vital ministry in the church.

Thirdly, Psalm 32:7 speaks to us of Songs of Deliverance. "Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance". Songs of deliverance come to us when we overcome temptations. The Devil is always there to tempt us and make us fall but the Psalmist says to God, "Thou art my hiding place". If we remain close to the Lord Jesus, He will deliver us from evil. "...God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it'(1 Cor. 10:13). When we overcome temptation, we have a song in our hearts. We will be singing for joy. You may not have beautiful words, but in your heart, you will be singing a song of deliverance.

Fourthly, Psalm 119:54 says, "Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage". , The Psalmist had the habit of converting Scriptures directly into songs and singing them. It would be a great blessing if we also could do this. They are called Scripture Songs. Today we sing many such songs, which are directly taken from the Scriptures. When we begin to sing such songs we get to learn the Scripture verses by heart. We must keep on singing such songs.

Finally, Psalm 137:3 speaks to us of Songs of Zion. "...Sing us one of the songs of Zion". Zion was a place in Jerusalem, but it has different meanings in the Scriptures. Zion speaks to us of heaven as well as the Church. Heaven is a place of singing. In Revelation 5:9 we see the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures sing a new song. That new song of heaven speaks of the redemption through the precious blood of the Lord Jesus. We will be eternally singing songs in heaven. So let us get started here and now. Do not be worried about the pitch and tune. Even our flat singing will be heard as beautiful songs in heaven.

During the 19th century, Christians were called the people of two books -the Holy Bible and the hymnal. They always carried these two books with them. On every occasion, they sang hymns. We also should maintain this practice. We express our joy with singing (James 5:13). This also is a mark of a Spirit-filled life. "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Eph. 5:18, 19).

(To be contd.) N.J.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

Hebron,
Golconda Crossroads,
Hyderabad -500 020, A.P., India.
Telephone No.27613066, 30-5-2005

Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

All honour and glory , praise and power be unto Him, even God our Father, Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in His Son. He hath in His mercy and goodness led us upto the threshold of the sixth month, and we would recall all His benefits toward U\$, as recorded in Psalm 103 -He forgiveth, healeth, redeemeth, crowneth with lovingkindness, and satisfieth us with good things, to renew us in our spirit, soul and body. Thus we may enjoy His grace to walk before Him as Abraham of old. May we be thus prepared for our privileges and possessions in that city, Jerusalem from above, "the mother of us all" (Eph.1:3; Psa.103:1-5; Gen.17:1; Heb.11:10; Gal.4:26).

We have been considering the features of the life of Abraham -exemplary experiences he received in obedience to the Lord, to maintain separation and heavenliness of spiritual value. Abraham had to learn these lessons in a hard school. The sixth aspect that contributes to heavenliness is that by natural means, resources or energies one cannot realise divine ends. Abraham's life was marred and scarred when he resorted to natural means to obtain a child at the suggestion of Sarai (Gen.16:2, 11). The world today holds that scar in a most terrible way. In Islam and Ishmael we see the full growth of that fatal mistake of Abraham, when he tried to realise a divine purpose along natural lines. As heavenly people or as an expression of heaven!}' Church we cannot do that, though the Church has tried to do that over the centuries -trying to accomplish her divine mission by worldly means or natural resources and energies. For the heavenly thing no resources or energies of nature are permissible.

Eventually Isaac was born through Sarah by divine intervention and power. However there was this earthly link in connection with his birth. In asking Abraham to offer Isaac on Mt.Moriah, God would take Isaac to death. Only God can raise the dead. Abraham by faith was accounting that God was able to raise his son from the dead and we read, "...from whence also he received him in a figure" -figure of resurrection(Heb.11 :19). What is raised from the dead is "all of God". Even in that which may be of God and for God, He will cut clean in between what is of heaven and what is of earth. Perhaps Abraham's peril was to make Isaac dear to his own heart above all -his very own even though he got him by a miracle. God said in effect, "No Abraham, no earthly ties in divine things". Even though it originated from God Himself, God was saying, "No Abraham. This thing must be utterly of Me and not of you!"

We read in Gen.22:1, "...God did tempt (rather test) Abraham". Abraham stood the test and triumphed in it in the "tear of God," concerning which the Lord says, "...now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son.." (Gen 22:12). He loved the Giver more than the gift and surrendered all, without staggering in his faith. He received Isaac back from the altar as a figure of resurrection.

Applying to our times we may draw a spiritual parallel, as we are also called into His heavenly purposes in Christ. God causes some of His heavenly purposes to be born and established in our hearts, and we take it as a heavenly vision to hold on. So we hold on to that thing for the Lord. But when we claim it as ours, sure and steadfast, He allows the vision and call to be broken, so to say, amidst seeming confusion and contradiction. We should then gladly surrender and give it back to the Lord in faith and devotion. Though I let go my hold on it, the God of peace Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, will bring it up again, if it has had its origin in Him. Though God's great purposes are thus taken out of the compass of human instrumentality, the God of resurrection will wholly carry it to the full end. In the mean time He would be working in me what is well pleasing in His sight (Heb. 13:20,21), making me perfect in every good work. This will be for His eternal glory and is reward to us, in the measure in which we have submitted and surrendered to His ways which are past finding out. God helping we will see further on

this matter of heavenliness -for of Him, through Him and to Him must be all things.

The mini convocation held at Lucknow was used of the Lord for the spiritual blessing of a gathering of about 200. Bros. G.T. Benjamin and Devadas besides others shared in the ministry of the Word. Pray for the follow up work there and other parts of the North in our land.

The Hebron Day Camp from 25th to 29th May was well attended by an average of 1500. Bros. Theodore, Paul Sudhakar and Jayaraj from Tirupati shared the ministry of the Word. About 110 decided for the Lord and others recommitted their lives to the Lord. Thank the Lord for the help and ministry of youth workers, counsellors and other helpers during the camp.

Special meetings following the dedication of the new Prayer House, Hebron, at Bodhan is to take place from 3rd to 5th June. Pray for some of us who have to make the journey by road to participate in the ministry, especially Bro. G.T. Benjamin, myself, Bro. John Stewart and others.

Pray for the servants and families of different assemblies, as they would be moving to new Prayer Houses to take up the work and ministry of the Lord in that new area. Pray that they may receive every help in various matters and His grace for the ministry ahead of them, for the blessing of His people and the upbuilding of the Church.

I would value your prayers for His continued mercy and grace for travel as well as for the brief ministry in this year's North America Holy Convocation, if the Lord would have me to go. Pray also for the messengers in the Lord's ordering for the many-sided needs of the ministry of those days. Pray for Bro.T.E.Koshy and elders and helpers of the International Assembly at 4274, Lafayette Road, Jamesville, NY, 13078.

Praying that we all be followers of them who through faith and patience inherited His promises, walking in the steps of Abraham as His spiritual seed, by Christ Jesus our Lord,

Gal. 4: 26,28 Gal. 3: 11,29 Heb. 13: 13-15

I remain, Yours in His grace.,

K. PHILLIP,

LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU-3

BAKHT SINGH

Contention and strife are some of our common problems. As believers we have to avoid quarrels and strife. It is better to lose material things than quarrel with people and lose our peace. See how God wonderfully compensated Isaac for the loss. From Rehoboth he went to Beersheba, which means, "a well of oath". This reminds us that God is a covenant-keeping God. "Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations" (Deut. 7:9). What God has promised and purposed He will fulfill. "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" (Num.23: 19). God appeared to Isaac the same night. "And the LORD appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear

not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake" (Gen. 26: 24). Believing in God's promise he obeyed God and moved away from the place of contention and strife. Our hearts must be free from hatred and jealousy. When we leave everything in God's hands He compensates every loss.

Then God put fear in the hearts of Isaac's enemies all around. Even the king came and bowed before him and asked his forgiveness. "Then Abimelech went to him from Gerar, and Ahuzzath one of his friends, and Phicol the chief captain of his army. And they said, We saw certainly that the LORD was with thee..." (Gen.26:26,28a). By his kindness, largehearted- ness, meekness and love, people saw that God was with him. Because Isaac left his enemies and went away from their country and refused to be involved in strife, God brought the three leading men of the country upon their knees.They said, "...thou art now the blessed of the LORD" (v.29last part). Thus we find that when we honour God and His Word, and obey Him, He will fully compensate. For a small amount of money people will drag us to the court, which will go on for many years. If we commit every situation into the Lord's hands, we will see how wonderfully we can receive from His hand all that we have lost. Even though Isaac reaped hundredfold in Gerar, it was not from God. What we acquire by our own efforts will end in misery .If we do anything against God's will, we will lose, but when we do His will we will receive much in the end. "And he made them a feast, and they did eat and drink" (Gen.26:30). Even though the enemies of Isaac robbed him and pushed him out of their country , he received them with love and honoured them. As believers we should not do anything to take revenge on our enemies.

Isaac lost two wells, but gained three (Gen. 26:22,25,32). Besides that, he received favour from his neighbours. The king also asked forgiveness from him and honoured him, and the people feared him. That is how we should trust the Lord.

May the Lord save us from getting involved in situations which will cause strife and hatred. May He help us to love Him, trust Him and obey Him and thus be blessed by Him. (Concluded)

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NO 13

HELP FROM ABOVE-3

SEVENFOLD HELP OR BLESSINGS FROM THE LORD (Steady Steps).

Verse 3 of Psalm 121 speaks to us of the second blessing that the LORD gives us. "He will not suffer thy foot to be moved". This verse speaks to us of Steady Steps (steadfastness) that the Lord gives a believer in his spiritual walk. All around us there is uncertainty. Many people find it difficult to take decisions when it comes to important matters in life. They hesitate thinking that they might make a mistake. Still others grope in darkness as it were not knowing whether they are doing the right thing or not. In such a world a Christian can be a witness of having the testimony of God's guidance. Regarding a believer Psalm 37:31 says, "The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide". What kind of steps would you like to take? Steady steps or sliding steps? If you want steady steps then learn to get direction from the Lord Who made the heavens and the earth. Psalm 37:23 says, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way". Learn to allow the Lord to order your steps. Pray the prayer of the Psalmist as found in Psalm 119:133; "Order my steps in thy word; and let not any iniquity have dominion over me".

The Bible tells us that we should follow the steps of the Lord Jesus. "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, THAT YE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS STEPS" (1Peter2: 21). "You should follow His steps" is the calling of the Christian. This is the meaning of being a Christian. Many times in the Gospels, we find the Lord Jesus calling people to follow Him.

1. Leave and Follow:

"And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew: his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him" (Matt.4: 18-20). This was a new beginning in the lives of Peter and Andrew. It is good for us to see that the Lord Jesus did not call them merely to believe in Him but He called them to FOLLOW Him. Even today, this is what the Lord Jesus wants us to do. When Peter and Andrew left their nets, they showed their willingness to follow the Lord Jesus whole-heartedly. The important principle we should see here is our whole-heartedness in our following the Lord Jesus. Have we left anything at all in this life in order to follow the Lord Jesus? We can see in the Bible how greatly the Lord Jesus could use these simple men because of their willingness to "leave and follow". It is possible that some of you are called by the Lord Jesus to leave everything and serve Him only. We read testimonies of great men of God who were challenged by the Lord Jesus to give up their jobs and serve Him. But remember that all of us are not called to do the same. Nevertheless, we are called to leave certain things of our old life and follow Him. Our sinful habits, self-glory, and worldly ambitions cannot go with us when we follow our Master. Before I became a

believer, my ambition in life was to become a karate expert. I used to spend hours practicing the art of karate. But when I surrendered my life to the Lord Jesus, very soon the Lord showed me that this was something that I should leave in order that I may follow Him. It was a difficult decision but the Lord gave me grace, The Lord may speak to you regarding things that you need to give up, so that you may have time and ability to follow Him. This is how we can have steady steps in our spiritual walk.

2. Listen and Follow:

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27). As a follower of the Lord Jesus the most important things to learn to listen to His voice. The Lord Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice". His voice comes to us today through the written Word of God. God desires to speak to us; we must be willing to listen. We must have a regular time of reading the Bible. The Lord Jesus said, "...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt.4:4). The Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God comes to us when we read the Bible The Word of God is our spiritual food. We take food at least three times a day to feed our body but what about our spirit? Only the Word of God can nourish our spirit. We must have daily reading of the Word of God both from the Old Testament and the New Testament. We must appreciate all the books of the Bible equally. Some like to read only the book of Psalms and others only the Gospels. But remember, the whole Bible is inspired of God. If we want to follow the Lord Jesus, we must hear His voice through the reading of the Bible. According to your need 01 the day, God will speak to your heart through your: daily portion. Remember, it is not a voice that you hear through your ears but through your heart. There are thousands of promises in the Word of God. We must learn to receive, appreciate and believe them. If we listen to Him and follow Him, our steps will be steady. Always desire to be guided by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God will guide us through the Word of God. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Rom.8: 14).

3, Lay down your life and Follow:

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take' up his cross, and follow me" (Matt.16: 24). There were thousands of people who followed the Lord Jesus because He performed miracles and gave them food when they were hungry. Many people were crowding around Him, but then He threw this challenge to them. In simple words this is what the Lord Jesus said; "If you want to be My disciple, you must be prepared to die. You must stop thinking what you can get from Me. You must take up your cross, that is, all your troubles, trials, burdens, and the reproach you receive because of My Name, and follow Me." Remember, that the Christian's calling is a call to suffer. Paul tells Timothy that he should "endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ"(2Timothy 2:3). It is said that a man who walked carrying a cross, was not expected to come back alive. The cross is an instrument of death. It may seem strange that the Lord Jesus said, "You must take up your cross and follow Me", because people today tend to relate the Lord Jesus with earthly blessings and prosperity. They think, if we believe on the Lord Jesus, we can receive all that we want. Even Christian preachers encourage believers to think so. They say, "If you pray in faith, you will receive anything you want". Some even say, "Write what you want in a piece of paper and send it to me; I will pray for you, and you will receive it." This is quite contrary to the challenge that was put forward by the Lord Jesus to His disciples. He wanted His disciples to deny themselves and follow Him. Let us not be selfish Christians. Our calling is to become selfless Christians.

Make sure that you have Steady, Steps in your Christian walk. The Lord Jesus gives us steady steps. This is the second blessing that the Lord gives us according to Psalm 121: 3. (To be contd.) N.J.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

Hebron,
Golconda Crossroads,
Hyderabad -500 020, A.P., India.
Telephone No.27613066, 15-6-2005

Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the precious and prevailing Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who ever liveth to make intercession for us to save and succour us, even a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God. May He unveil before us .the vision and values of "the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem". Thus we may be enabled to walk worthy of God and His Kingdom and glory to which He hath called us (Rom. 8:34; Heb.2: 17, 18; 12:22; 1 Thess. 2:12).

We have been considering some of the main features of Abraham's life -separation and heavenliness -which he had to learn in the school of obedience. Thus he looked for that city which hath foundations -the heavenly Jerusalem as far as we are concerned. Now we may be given grace to consider the heavenly aspect of the city itself-the New Jerusalem, as seen from the Scriptures.

The description of the New Jerusalem begins with verse 9 of Revelation 21 and reaches upto chapter 22. In these Scriptures we have .the character of the city during the millennium, and its relation indeed, to the millennial earth. John says, " And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God..."(Rev.21: 9-11). The first thing that strikes any reader, familiar with the previous chapters of this Book, is the designed contrast between this Scripture, and that in chapter 17. "And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgement of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters" (v.1). In this chapter we have Babylon depicted, and in chapter 21 the New Jerusalem. The former is man's city, the latter is God's -the one is the expression of what man is, the other, the perfection of God's thoughts, robed in His glory. Let us carefully ponder the contrast, and learn its divine lessons.

Another thing we might say, is that the City is the Bride, the Lamb's wife. This determines its character. It is the Church which Christ has now presented II to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing... holy and without blemish"(Eph.5: 27), beautified with His own beauty, and having the glory of God its position also is to be noted.

Both in the second and tenth verses of Revelation 21, it is seen to come down from heaven, but a comparison of the two verses will show us the place the city occupies throughout the thousand years. In the tenth verse it is seen as descending out of heaven from God. But after the similar statement in verse 2 of the same chapter, John hears the proclamation, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men", -showing that the City had now come down to, and rested upon, the new earth. The inference therefore -and the one which is abundantly substantiated from other Scriptures -is that in the tenth verse the city descends towards the Millennial Earth, but rests above it, over the earthly Jerusalem. Poised thus as it were, above the. earthly city, it will be a visible object of light and glory;

and this perhaps may explain the language which the prophet addressed to Jerusalem, "The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory" (Isa.60: 19). The Lord helping we will continue these meditations in our next issue.

Bro. Ambrose. God's servant, with saints and co-workers. express their thanks to all for answered prayers in connection with the Holy Convocation they were enabled to hold in the Women's College grounds, near the House of Peace. Danavaipet. Rajahmundry. In spite of the change of dates. more than two thousand two hundred were registered for stay from 7th to 12th June. but the daily attendance was more than four thousand. except for the weekend, when many returned to their local assemblies. Bros. J.C. Rao. John Stewart. Jayraj, John Victor and others amongst us shared the ministry including youth meetings. besides sisters from Hebron ministering among sisters. More than three hundred decided for the Lord, while many others recommitted their lives to Him. Bro. Elias from Nalgonda with a team of brothers and sisters attended to the preparation of food. God's servant Bro. Ambrose, with all co-workers covets our prayers for the follow-up work.

Concerning the Youth Camp held at Eshcol, Ongole and the general meetings held in the neighbouring college compound, the following report is given for our thanks giving and prayer for the follow-up work. "Brothers Theodore Reginald, John Stewart and Jayaraj shared the main ministry while others with God's servant Bro. John Subba Reddy helped in other ministries. Bros. G. T. Benjamin and K.Phillip joined for the weekend ministry. There has been a good response through this ministry, judging from the following statistics. About 500 decided for the Lord, with 65 baptisms and about 57 committing their lives to serve the Lord. Bro. John Subba Reddy and co-workers seek our prayers to provide further help, to those who have decided and especially, those who want to serve the Lord. Do pray as to when and how it may be attended to profitably. Of course a similar need has arisen wherever Youth Camps and meetings of that kind took place this year throughout the land, to build up those who have come into the faith and vision of the work of the Lord, which we have learned and received over the past many decades through His honoured servant late Bro. Bakht Singh and others who laboured with him.

Please pray for the ministry. of Bro. Paul Sudhakar in Auckland, New Zealand, for a period of about three weeks, beginning from June 5th.

Though belated, we would mention that Bro. A. Joseph, who laboured as an elder at Jehovah -Rohi, Jammalamadugu for about four decades, was promoted to Glory on 4th May. Please pray for the comfort of his loved ones.

Praying that our labours, small and great, may contribute to the upbuilding of His Church, for the praise of His glory,

Acts 20 : 32 Psalm 122: 2,3,7 Zech. 1:14,17

I remain, Yours in His grace.,

K. PHILLIP,

STRIVE IN PRAYER

BAKHT SINGH

Scripture Reading: Esther 4.

Mordecai, Esther's uncle refused to bow down to Haman: that is why he determined to destroy not only Mordecai but the whole Jewish nation (Esther 3:5-6). Haman is a type of Satan who is angry with the believers and persecutes those who refuse to bow down to him. Haman was full of wickedness and wanted to kill all the Jews. If his scheme had been successful, all the Jews would have been killed in one day. To save His people, the Jews, God raised Esther for that period. She never knew why she was brought to: such a high position. When the enemy's scheme was known, her uncle said these words to her. "For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4: 14).

Mordecai speaks of believers who refuse to bow down to Anti-Christ and the false prophet in the end days. In Revelation 13:15 we read that the enemy will raise up an image of the beast and persecute and kill those who refuse to bow down to it. The man child in Rev.12:5 speaks of those believers who refuse to worship the image. They are the overcomers who will rule with a rod of iron in the millennium (Rev.2 : 26,27). The woman in Rev. 12: 1 with a crown of twelve stars, wearing the sun and the moon speaks of the Church. Among many names given to the Lord Jesus Christ, one is the Sun of righteousness (Mal.4:2). The moon by itself has no light, but the light of the sun falling on the moon reflects the light. The moon under the feet of the woman speaks of the prophets who receive the message of the Lord and give it to the Church. The twelve stars speak of the twelve apostles. The enemy is ready to devour the man child (Rev.12:4). Thus we see that those who want to overcome have to go through all kinds sufferings and persecution. But in the end, they will be rewarded and will rule with the Lord Jesus Christ. There is going to be a great persecution upon all the believers. These days are not far ahead. The enemy is using every possible: means to weaken the faith of believers, to persecute them and to destroy them.

Just as Esther did not know that the Jews were in great danger, we also do not know that many Christians are in danger. Because things are going on secretly we do not know the danger coming upon all the believers of the world. When Esther realized the danger, she prayed to God. Because of her intercession the Lord delivered all the Jews. On account of one person's intercession, God gave great deliverance. Even though we are few in number through our prayers the Lord will deliver many believers from persecution and all trials.

(To be contd.)

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G. T. Benjamin for Hebron, Golconda
Crossroads, Hyderabad -500020